Fellows

4/6/68

J. Edgar Hoover

PLAIN TEXT AIRTEL

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI ATTN: FBI LABORATORY

FROM : SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

SUBJECT: MURKIN
CIVIL RIGHTS

Submitted herewith are additional items recovered in connection with the murder of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.:

(1) One pair of men's shorts. (Waistband in unstretched condition, one side, measures approximately 11 3/4 inches, which would be waistband of approximately 23½ inches. Fully extended waistband measures approximately 17½ inches, one side or a total of 35 inches.

(2) T-shirt, size 42-44, designated "Jockey Power Knit" T-shirt, large size. It appears on visual examination that lower portion of T-shirt has been cut.

Laboratory requested to examine T-shirt and shorts for any hidden laundry marks and any other examination that may help to determine origin of garments. In connection with the laundry tape that appears on both the shorts and T-shirt, the number 02B-6 appears. Since a portion of the left side of each of these tapes is missing, the possibility that the "0" might be the remnant of the letter "D" or some other combinations should not be overlooked.

Inquiry of the Albany Office discloses that the Textile Marking Machine Co., Syracuse, N.Y., has a representative, JOE COMBS, [redacted] Oxenhill, Maryland, Tel. [redacted], in residence in Oxenhill. COMBS reportedly has the ability to determine on inspection of laundry marking tape as to whether or not this is type tape produced by his company and type of machine producing same.

(3) - Bureau (Enc.-3)
1 - Albany
1 - Birmingham
2 - Memphis
RGJ:ME
(7)

Per delivered 4/6/68 by SA Robt Fitzpatrick

T.T. mailed 4/7/68 RAF

6 will handle

MM 44-1907

Request that Laboratory prior to conducting its examinations arrange for COMBS to view tape.

In addition, there is submitted herewith one board which is part of a window sill in window of bathroom at 422½ South Main, from which it appears that fatal shot was fired.

Laboratory requested to examine board to ascertain any possibility of breech powder burns or any other identifiable markings that may be made by weapon in question. Possibility that recoil marks may appear on board. Texture of board was such that no latents of significance could be developed. Suggest however that the Bureau reexamine for possibility latents might be developed by FBI.

In addition, there is submitted herewith five cards appropriately identified of various latents lifted by representatives of the Memphis PD. These latents should be examined against any latents developed in examinations conducted by FBI.

Note: SAC Jenson desires laundry tapes treated for latents only after Mr Combs has seen them.